

ABSTRACT

In a computer network, a method for discovering the topology of a network comprising: initially resolving the positions of the end stations, and subsequently resolving the topology of the remaining devices.

A computer program is provided on a computer readable medium loadable into a digital computer or embodied in a carrier wave, which comprises the following steps of a program step to query a port of a managed device for a first address of any packet which has been received; a program step for querying the same port of the device for a second address of any packet which has been received; if there is no second address, returning relevant data to a manager and determining if there is another port on the device; if there is a second address, determining if there is another port on the device; if there is another port on the device, repeating the preceding four steps for another port of the managed device; if not, repeating the preceding five steps in respect of another managed device.